

City Council Work session

**Pepco Reliability Enhancement
Program – Phase II**

**Community Center
Multi-purpose Room**

July 22, 2015 8 pm

To: City Council
From: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager *MM*
Date: July 16, 2015
Re: Pepco's proposed tree work

Pepco is embarking on a second phase of its Reliability Enhancement Program. The first phase occurred three years ago when Pepco presented a plan to upgrade feeder lines and related equipment to improve its reliability in Greenbelt.

A second phase of this work is now being proposed in Greenbelt and elsewhere throughout Prince George's County. The work this time is focused primarily on service lines along streets and in neighborhoods such as GHI.

It is proposed to remove around 375 trees along streets and do a large amount of pruning work. The bulk of the work is proposed in the central part of Greenbelt between Kenilworth Avenue and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, though work will also occur in Greenbelt East (Franklin Park?). Plans will be available at the work session showing the proposed work.

The removal of trees is being proposed because the trees have grown into the power lines. There are a number of streets where the proposed work will have a noticeable impact. These include Lakecrest Drive, Maplewood Court, Greenhill Road and the top of Lastner Lane. Many of the trees proposed for removal here are Bradford Pears which as Council knows have become problematic street trees due to their age.

Another large amount of the work is in the Belle Point Forest Preserve and along the Beltway ramps such as at the edge of Indian Springs Park where power lines run.

Public Works staff have reviewed the plans and denied the removal of a number of trees. They have also walked all the areas where work is proposed.

As was done three years ago, a permit for the work will be required and Public Works staff will monitor the daily work of Pepco's contractor once a plan of work is authorized.

Trees removed in street rights-of-way will be replaced on a one-to-one basis.

Attached is a copy of a pending report from the city's Advisory Committee on Trees with recommendations of trees to be planted under power lines, a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding with Pepco and Verizon related to tree pruning and cutting, and the letter which has been sent to affected property owners.

Cc: Jim Sterling, Acting Director of Public Works
Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development
Richard Fink, Parks Superintendent
Brian Townsend, Horticultural Supervisor
David Moran, Assistant City Manager

**Report #2015-1
July 12, 2015**

Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Trees – Report to the City Council

Subject: Recommended Trees for Use under Power Lines

The Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT) has been informed that PEPCO is preparing for pruning and removal of trees near overhead power lines. ACT understands that PEPCO will also be replacing the removed trees. Thus, replacement tree possibilities were discussed at the last ACT meeting (June 30, 2015). The final list of recommended tree species (with their cultivar distinctions) is suitable for urban use under power lines (growth rate/ultimate height). These trees are also tolerant of urban street tree conditions (heat, drought, salt tolerance and soil compaction).

Below is a list of species, cultivars, and sources for the ACT-recommended replacement trees:

Acer burgerianum (Trident Maple) – Manor View Farm (MVF)
 Acer campestre ‘Queen Elizabeth’ (‘Queen Elizabeth’ Hedge Maple) – Angelica Nursery (AN)
 Acer-campestre ‘Panacek’ - (‘Panacek’ Hedge Maple) – Moon Nursery (MN)
 Acer ginnala ‘Flame’ (‘Flame’ Amur Maple) – MN, MVF
 Chionanthus-retusus (Tree form), salt tolerant – MN
 Lagerstroemia ‘Fantasy’ (‘Fantasy’ Crape Myrtle) – Pleasant Run Nursery (PRN)
 Lagerstroemia ‘Tuskegee’ (‘Tuskegee’ Crape Myrtle) - PRN, MVF
 Lagerstroemia ‘Muskogee’ (‘Muskogee’ Crape Myrtle) - PRN, MVF
 Magnolia virginiana ‘Moon Glow’ (‘Moon Glow’ Sweet Bay Magnolia) - PRN, MVF
 Magnolia virginiana ‘Green Shadow’ (‘Green Shadow’ Sweet Bay Magnolia) - PRN
 Magnolia x loebnerii ‘Dr. Merrill’ (‘Merrill’ Loebner Magnolia) - PRN, MVF, MN
 Malus ‘Adams’ (‘Adams’ Flowering Crabapple) – MN
 Malus ‘Adirondack’ (‘Adirondack’ Flowering Crabapple) - MN
 Malus ‘Centurion’ (‘Centurion’ Flowering Crabapple) - MN
 Malus ‘Harvest Gold’ (‘Harvest Gold’ Flowering Crabapple) - MN
 Malus ‘Prairie Fire’ (‘Prairie Fire’ Flowering Crabapple) - MN
 Malus ‘Purple Prince’ (‘Purple Prince’ Flowering Crabapple) - MN
 Parrotia persica (Persian Parrotia) - MN, MVF
 Prunus ‘Dream Catcher’ (‘Dream Catcher’ Flowering Cherry) - ?
 Prunus x yedoensis (Yoshino Cherry) - MN, MVF
 Syringa reticulata ‘Ivory Silk’ (‘Ivory Silk’ Japanese Tree Lilac) - MN, MVF
 Ulmus x ‘Frontier’ (‘Frontier’ Elm) - MN

Abbreviations used:

AN – Angelica Nursery, Phone: 410-928-3111
 Address: 11129 Locust Grove Road, Kennedyville, MD
 MN – Moon Nursery, Phone: 410-755-6600
 Address: 145 Moon Road, Chesapeake City, MD
 MVF – Manor View Farm, Phone: 410-771-4700
 Address: 15601 Manor Road, Monkton, MD
 PRN – Pleasant Run Nursery, Phone: 609-259-8585
 Address: 93 Ellisdale Road, Allentown, NJ



*Government Affairs & Public Policy
Pepco Region*

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June 04, 2015

RE: Tree Maintenance Crews are Coming to Your Neighborhood

Dear Valued Customer,

To help meet our commitment of providing you with safe and reliable electricity, crews will be performing scheduled vegetation management in your area to prevent service outages and damage to overhead lines caused by tree branches coming into contact with overhead power lines. In accordance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (20.50.12.09), we are notifying you that this work may start as soon as **10** days from the date of this notice.

State regulations define the necessary amount of pruning, which will be specific to each tree type, growth patterns, health and relative location to the power lines. Licensed Professional Foresters and ISA Certified Arborists manage our vegetation management program and contractual forestry professionals, many of whom are also ISA Certified Arborists, examine each tree to identify the work that needs to be done.

As a reminder, please consider the location of overhead utility lines when deciding what type and where to plant trees. Each tree species grows differently and to different heights, so it is important to keep in mind what a tree will look like when it matures. In addition to overhead lines, remember that cables and pipes are buried underground as well. Before digging, make sure to call Miss Utility at 811 to receive assistance in identifying the location of underground utility equipment and to avoid making contact with it.

Should you receive a door hanger notifying you of tree pruning activity in your neighborhood and have any questions, please contact the forestry representative listed on your door hanger. If trees on your property require removal, a forestry representative will contact you for permission first.

If you have any questions about the vegetation management planned for your area, please contact Customer Service at **(202) 833-7500** and ask to have someone in our forestry department call you.

Donna Cooper
President, Pepco Region

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BY: